From Atheist to Christian Flow Chart

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In conversation with an Atheist, the following flow of conversation will lead one to become a Christian if the Atheist is an "**honest**" atheist.

A. Atheist.

1. Definition of an atheist. An atheist is one who claims to "know" that there is no God because if he does not "know" that there is no God then he is not an atheist but an agnostic, by definition.

2. Honest Atheist. So the only question is whether the person is an honest atheist or a dishonest atheist. An honest atheist will be open to evidence that might require a change of position. A dishonest atheist will hold firm to his "belief" (faith) even when evidence to the contrary is presented. Notice that it is then a "belief" he holds not a proven fact (thus a "religion").

3. Omniscience. Since an atheist is, by definition, one who claims to "know" that there is no God, and one of the characteristics of "God" is omniscience – God knows everything -- then the atheist must know "everything." Therefore, if there is one thing that is not yet known by the atheist, that one thing may be that God exists. But if the atheist admits that there may be that one unknown fact – the existence of God – then he must shift to the agnostic position since he is claiming ignorance on that topic.

4. Claim of Deity. If he claims to know "all things" then that person is, by definition, God, since only God is omniscient. Since, he is, by definition God, he can no longer remain an atheist because his claim would logically follow that there is a God – thus no atheist. Therefore he must most to the agnostic position.

B. Agnostic.

1. Ignorance admission. An agnostic is one who claims "ignorance" on at least one item – the knowledge of the existence of God. So you either have an honest agnostic or a dishonest agnostic. An honest agnostic will consider

evidence that would permit him to move from ignorance to knowledge. A dishonest agnostic will keep "blinders" on and will refuse to consider evidence that may be offered.

2. Reasonable position of an Agnostic. A dishonest agnostic will remain an agnostic because he prefers to remain "ignorant" (the definition of an agnostic). Since it is not a positive personal characteristic to be "ignorant" it is more attractive to a ***reasonable*** person to be an honest agnostic and consider evidence of the existence of God.

3. Reasonable search for "Knowledge." Being a reasonable agnostic, then, the person will consider the evidence. Since it is not "reasonable" to believe that "something came from nothing" but rather that there is a "first cause," the reasonable agnostic will move to the position of a "Theist" -- one who believes that there is a God (First Cause) but who has not yet determined who or what God is. This is known as the "Cosmological argument" for the existence of God proposed by Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, and others. It a logical position that any "reasonable" agnostic will accept if the agnostic is honest.

C. Theist

1. Definition of a Theist. A theist is one who believes that there is a god but gives no further definition about who or what that god may be. But the theist is a "believer" in a god but not yet accepted a particular "revelation" about that god. A good example of a theist is a "Deist" who holds the position that a Creator created the universe, wound it up like a clock, then let it proceed following the natural laws He established. But a Deist would deny that the creator intervenes in human events but simply remains an observer of his creation. For the theist then, the question, then remains about how to know anything about this Creator.

2. General Revelation. Being a reasonable theist, then, the person will consider the evidence of General Revelation (creation). General Revelation,

the creation itself, will provide volumes of evidence of a “design” and behind any design is a “designer.” Thus the argument of Design will convince an honest theist that much can be learned about the Creator from his creation. This data will leave the theist without an “excuse” as the Apostle explained in Roman 1.20.

3. Special Revelation. Once convinced of the principle of a “first cause.” The honest theist will now question whether this “First Cause” has chosen to reveal himself to the creatures. Thus, the theist will study what is known as “comparative religions” which considered the claims of the major competing religions around the world. The theist will consider such things as the source documents, historical evidence, archeological evidence, the logic of the various religions such as consistency within itself and with “experience.” The theist will select which religion represents the most reasonable and evidence-supported religion. After considering such evidence, the most reasonable conclusion would be to accept the Christian “religion” as the most reasonable, consistent, and evidence-supported religion and will thus become a . . .

D. Christian – The most “logical” conclusion.

Thus the there is no such thing as an “honest atheist.” An honest atheist would progress through the above flow chart and eventually acknowledge Christianity and become a believer in Jesus Christ, as did C.S. Lewis (described in his book ***Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life***) and many other honest atheists.